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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **INOUE, Takakazu**

Group Art Unit: **1637**

Serial No.: **10/069,977**

Examiner: **Joyce Tung**

Filed: **March 13, 2002**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 2998

For: **METHOD OF ANALYZING INTESTINAL FLORA AND ANALYTICAL APPARATUS**

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
- EXPEDITED RESPONSE -
GROUP ART UNIT 1637

MAILSTOP AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 18, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated **September 24, 2003**, please amend the above-identified application as follows: